



HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY

Dear friends,

Greetings to everyone on the occasion of the 77th Independence Day of our nation. As we celebrate this historic day, it is our responsibility to remember the supreme sacrifices made by our leaders and freedom fighters. Freedom is the greatest thing in one's life and we are forever grateful to all those who sacrificed their lives to give us the fragrance of freedom.

Our country with its extreme diversity demonstrated such unity that got us the independence, continues to draw strength from its diversity. Hailed as the largest democracy in the world, India demonstrates the unity in diversity, tolerance and compassion to the world. We follow the principles of "*vasudaika kutumbam*" which translates to "the world is one family". The world is now following these principles of *vasudaika kutumbam* as the nations are grappling with the challenges of climate change and the natural resources depletion. India is now showing the way to the world.

It is a day to recognize the power of unity, diversity and resilience that our country exhibits. Today, we are privileged to witness the confluence of this diversity right here at NIT Srinagar, where students and faculty from various states and backgrounds come together to learn, grow, and contribute to our nation's progress. Here, it is a united family with wide diversity and that is the spirit of India.

Friends, for the past 76 years, India has shown tremendous growth in all aspects. We have emerged as the 5th largest economy in the world and predicted to become the 3rd largest by 2030; made inroads into the elite club of space technology and now at the verge of landing on Moon; became global exporter of software, pharma and regarded as the vaccine capital; became global leader in solar power; growing as global leader in green hydrogen; providing high-calibre human capital to the world; controlled our poverty and ensure food security to our people. We are one of the fastest growing nations in the world and with national missions such as "Atmanirbhar Bharat" and "Make in India"; India is on its trajectory to become a developed nation. The new Education Policy 2020 is expected to train the future leaders towards that goal. The infrastructure is augmented significantly in the past few decades. As our honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji portrays, India is poised to become

a developed country by the centenary celebrations of India's Independence. As he says "*Duniya mai koyi shakti isko nahi rok sakthi hai*".

But friends, we do have great challenges ahead of us. We could move 415 million people out of poverty from 2006 to 2021, but we still have 230 million people living in poor conditions. Even though, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana made deeper inroads in providing house to every family, a large number of Households are still deprived of own house. For India to become a developed nation, we must give thrust to the nation's core competencies. The GDP has to grow annually by 8 to 10 percent with consistency over years. We should ensure that the benefits of this growth reach the economically weaker sections of society. This is the only way to bring 230 million population out of poverty. We should reinforce our gains in agriculture, power, Information and Communication Technology, industrial and education sectors, space, and defence technologies, chemical, pharmaceutical and infrastructural industries, and more importantly in critical technologies. India has to emerge as a global exporter in order to fulfil its dreams of becoming a developed country.

Today, the world is looking at us. Because, we are traversing all this in a democratic path. This path is always more difficult, more laborious way of achieving growth but definitely it is more sustainable where we do not silence the voices of concern while planning our growth agenda. India is known for its tolerance, within and to the outer world and friend, it has been our supreme strength.

My dear friends, in this competitive world to march further, to be counted among the best a nation requires the power of Science & Technology. In this endeavour we the IITians and NITians have a strong role to play and to contribute to the country's progression into a developed nation. As students & educators, it is our collective responsibility, as the future leaders and innovators of India, to actively engage in shaping our society.

NIT Srinagar has got 63 years of glorious past and made significant contributions to the progression of the nation. We are all proud of our past years of contribution and let us take a pledge to carry forward the great legacy. At NIT Srinagar we recognize our responsibility and role in nation building. We are committed to produce world-class professionals & leaders who will contribute to the development of our country. For that we are also committed to creating a campus environment that is conducive to learning and innovation. I am confident that the students, faculty and all staff members of NIT Srinagar will rise to the occasion and make us proud. Make the country proud. You will be the changemakers who will shape the future of our country.

As we hoist our tricolor flag today, let us embrace the spirit of unity and progress as we celebrate our nation's 77th Independence Day. Together, we can build a country that is strong, resilient, inclusive, and prosperous for all. Once again, let us salute our great leaders who fought for the independence of the country and dedicate ourselves to the service of this great nation.

Jai Hind !!!

Prof. Sudhakar Yedla
Director
National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar